level-crossings in all the zonal Railways;

(d) whether the Railways have any plan for manning additional number of level-crossings; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF). (a) and (b) Instructions have been issued to the Zonal Railways to start preparatory work for manning of 500 unmanned level crossings as detailed below:

Railway	No. of level crossings
Central	67
Eastern	7
Northern	104
North Eastern	34
Northeast Frontier	2
Southern	83
South Eastern	22
Western	181
	500

(c) About 23,000.

(d) and (e) Manning of level crossings is done as per rules, on the request of State Government, who have to bear the initial Capital cost However, considering the gravity of consequences of accidents at level crossings, the Railways man some of the vulnerable level crossings to be identified as per laid down cirteria, at their own cost.

Indian Railway Finance Corporation

6818. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are Planning to tap the capital market in a big way through the Indian Railway Finance Corporation to raise funds for their various expansion and modernisation projects;

(b) if so, does it not amount to diversification of the role so far played by the IRFC; and

(c) what are the details of the expansion and modernisation Project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir. However, the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways proposes to raise funds to the extent of Rs. 1050 crores during 1994-95 for investment in Railway assets Rolling Stock for the present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Grant of Ex-gratia to CPF/SRPF

6819. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Ministry had referred the question of grant of ex-gratia relief to the surviving CPF/SRPF retirees to the Finance Ministry;

(b) if so, whether the Finance Ministry has sent their comments/recommendations to the Railway Ministry; and

(c) if so, whether the Railways have taken a decision on the proposal to grant ex-gratia relief to surviving CPF/SRPF retirees, with details about the nature of decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The Ministry of Railways referred a proposal to the Ministry of Finance for grant of ex-grati pension to railway employees who retired under the State Railway Provident Fund (Contributory) Scheme.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Not yet, Sir.